مجلس اسلامی
Islamic Council

1 December 1995

The Honorable Prime Minister
Government of Pakistan

Excellency,

Assalaam Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu

The Islamic Council is very concerned at reports concerning the detention of two brothers, the sons of the late Dr Abdullah Azzam, in connexion with the bombing of the Eyyptian Embassy in Islamabad.

We have convincing information that these men eschew violence and could never have been involved in this outrage. Their own father was killed by a bomb in a booby-trapped car and they have always been opposed absolutely to such violence which kills innocent people. We urge you to examine the evidence against them and if you find none, as we firmly believe to be the case, order their release forthwith.

On a wider issue, there are still many Arab Mujahiden in Pakistan, who fought valiantly and with great faith for the Muslim cause in Afghanistan against the might of the Soviet Union. The Egyptian government in particular seeks their extradition and a number have already been sent back to Egypt by your government: to imprisonment, torture and, in some cases the death penalty. It is very well-documented that the current regime in Egypt does not conform to international standards of justice: there is long detention before trials and when trials take place they are invariably before military courts, with no or inadequate defence provisions, no right of appeal, etc. Torture of political detainees is routine, and a fact, not a suspicion. (The title of one of Amnesty International's reports is 'Egypt: Ten Years of Torture' (October 1991).

I urge you, Prime Minister, to consider the interests and the international repute of Pakistan and to deal fairly and justly with Arabs living in your country.

Yours sincerely

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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